GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:253
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Overcrowding of Jails
Mishra Shri Anoop

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of jails in the country are overcrowded and the inmates are living in a pitiable condition and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government provides any assistance for modernization, decongestion and completion of various projects relating to jails in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds granted, released and utilized in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the names of States which have not been able to utilize all the funds along with the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the other measures taken by the Government for modernization of jails and construction of new jails?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*253 FOR 15.03.2016.

(a): As per data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) at the end of 2014, there were 4,18,536 inmates in the jails of the country against the capacity of 3,56,561 inmates and the rate of overcrowding is 117.4%. This rate was 118.4% in 2013.
(b) to (d): 'Prisons' is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and, therefore, prison administration is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has supported the States for prison modernization during 2002 to 2009 under the scheme of Modernization of Prisons. Details of fund released to the States and unspent balance with them under the scheme of Modernization of Prisons are given in the Annexure-I. The five States namely Assam, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh were unable to utilise funds to the tune of Rs. 12.20 crore for various reasons like non acquisition of land, unsuitability of land and non availability of matching share etc.
(e) The funds under the Thirteenth Finance Commission have also been provided to eight States during 2011-2015 for upgradation of prisons, the details are given in the Annexure-II.
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